

## A Long-Term Survival Guide – My Tamer Survival Gun:

Here is the weapon that I keep in my main survival pack:



The basic gun is a stainless H & R Tamer single-shot 20 gauge shotgun, with a polymer stock. I made some slight changes, and added a few accessories, to make it a more useful survival gun.

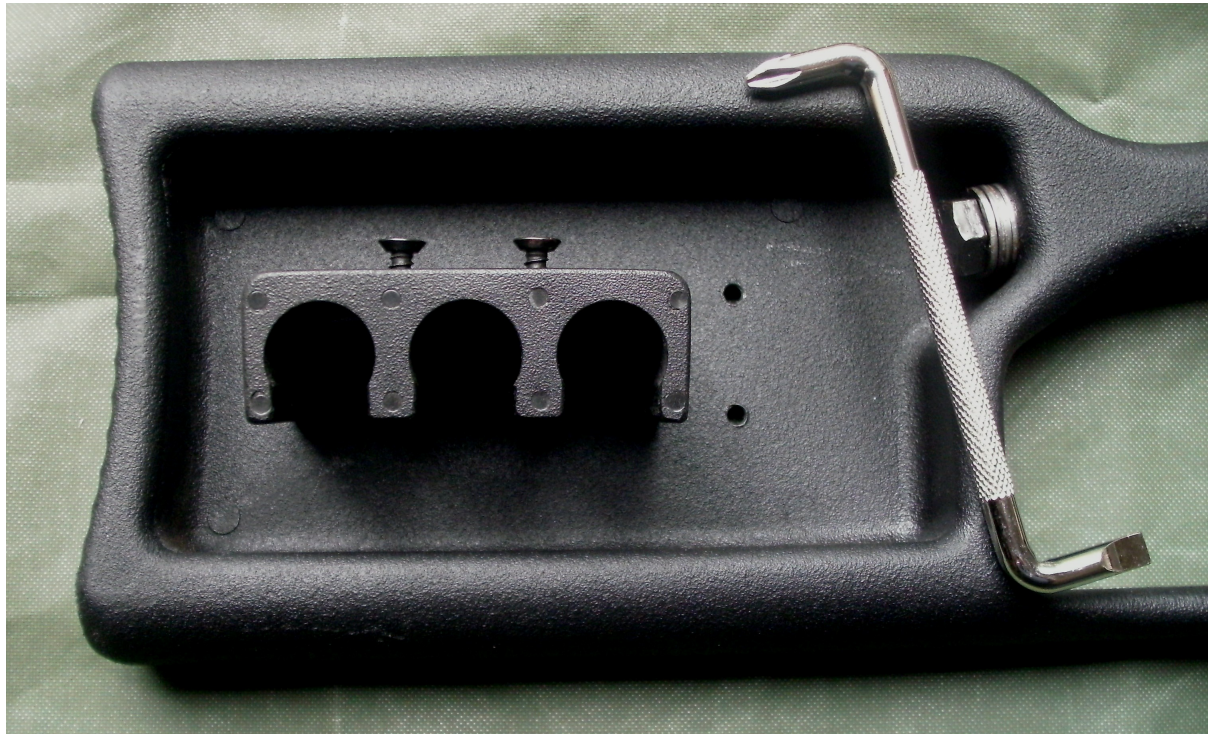


Changes include the addition of an ammo carrier, accessory pouch, survival kit, and a bayonet.

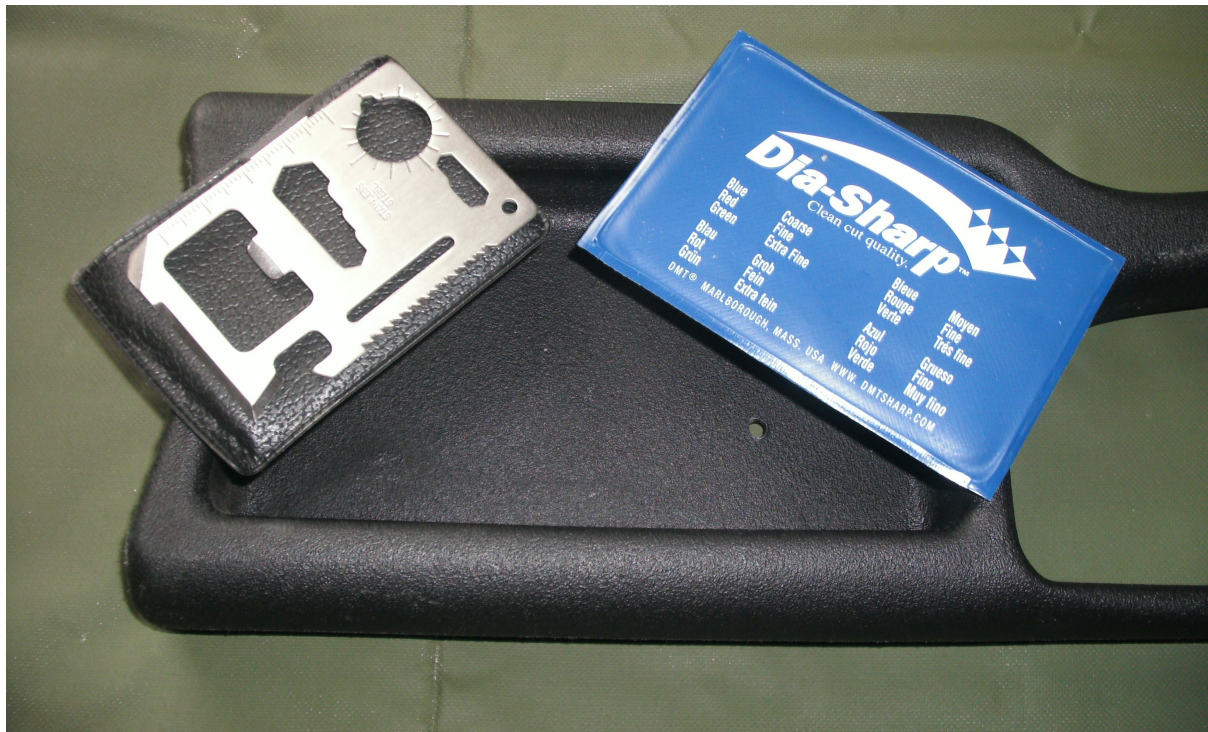


The Tamer breaks down into a relatively short package, with a 20" barrel and 18" stock section.





The polymer stock has a plastic clip in the recess (secured by two screws), which could hold three extra rounds. I removed the clip, so that I could use this space to hold a small survival kit instead.



The survival kit includes a credit card-sized multi-tool, and a credit card-sized diamond whetstone.



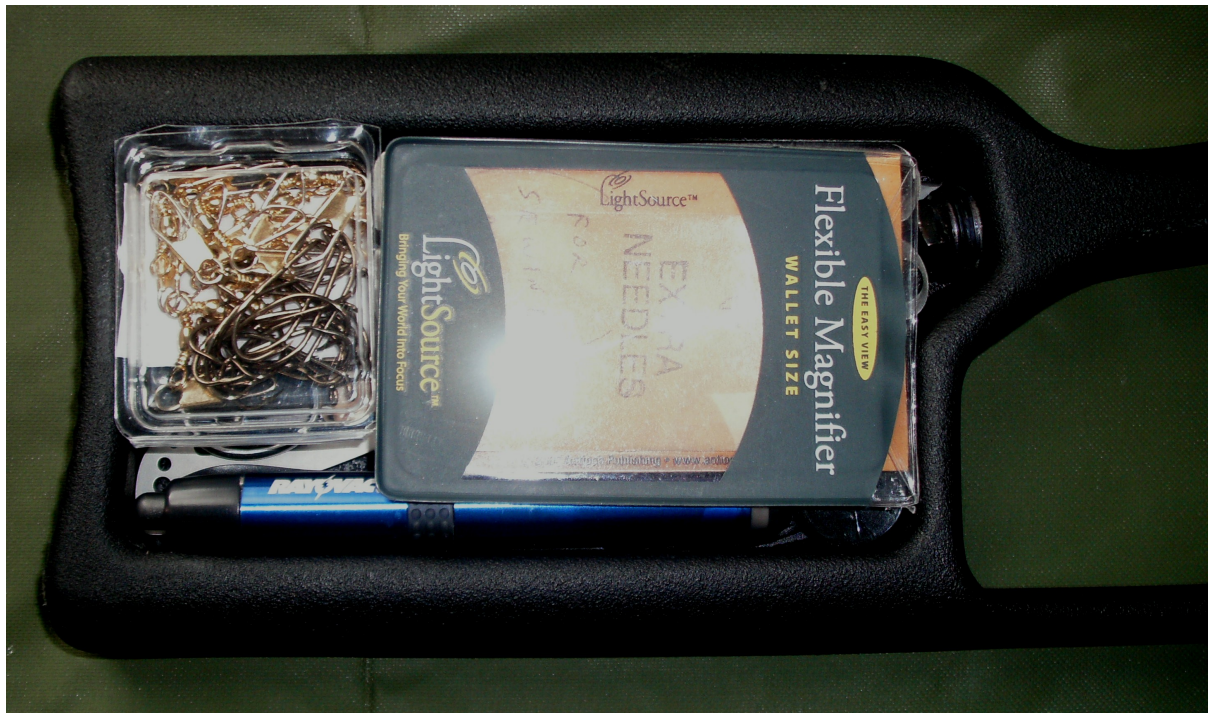


The kit also contains a surgical hemostat, and a small stainless steel knife, with a plastic sheath.



The next items are a set of multi-tool pliers, a small zipper-pull compass, a length of my favorite snare wire (green floral wire, from WalMart), a small bundle of 30 pound test fishing line, and a small plastic sewing bobbin (wound with a heavy, 100% nylon tapestry thread).





The final items are a Rayovac LED penlight, a small plastic box containing fishing gear, a small envelope that holds some sewing and repair needles, and a credit card-sized plastic Fresnel lens. (This kit is not intended to be comprehensive, it just contains items I selected for various uses.) I keep other items, such as first-aid, water purification, and water-carrying gear, in the main pack.



The kit is covered with plastic, cut from a heavy-duty plastic bag, and wrapped with clear tape.





I used an elastic shell carrier to cover the survival kit, and it also keeps extra ammo handy.



The shell carrier makes reloading the single-shot weapon faster, for when you are in a hurry.





Next I added an accessory case to the shell carrier. (It was intended to store flash memory drives.)



The case holds a Kubasek credit card-sized knife, a bottle of gun oil, a magnesium fire-starter, a butane lighter, a 20 gauge cleaning brush, and two sub-caliber shotgun adapters, for 22 and 357.

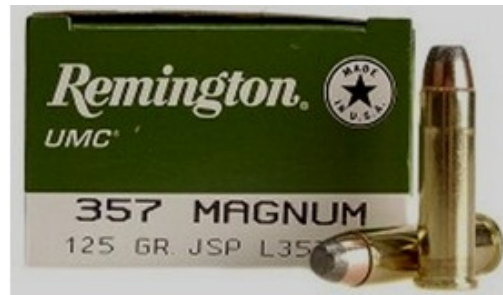




The 22 adapter lets the shotgun fire any 22 rimfire ammo, by using an offset 22 chamber.



You can also shoot 22 caliber shotshells, or “rat shot”, using the adapter.



The 357 adapter lets the shotgun fire any 357 caliber ammo, and any 38 special ammo.







The 22 and 357 shotgun adapters cost approx \$20 each, and are milled from stainless steel.

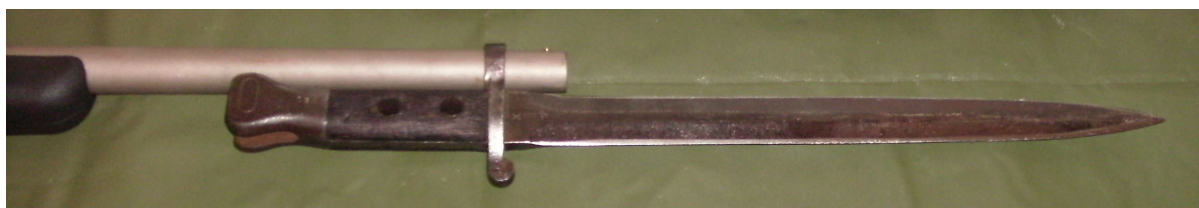


The adapters load and eject like a normal shotgun shell.

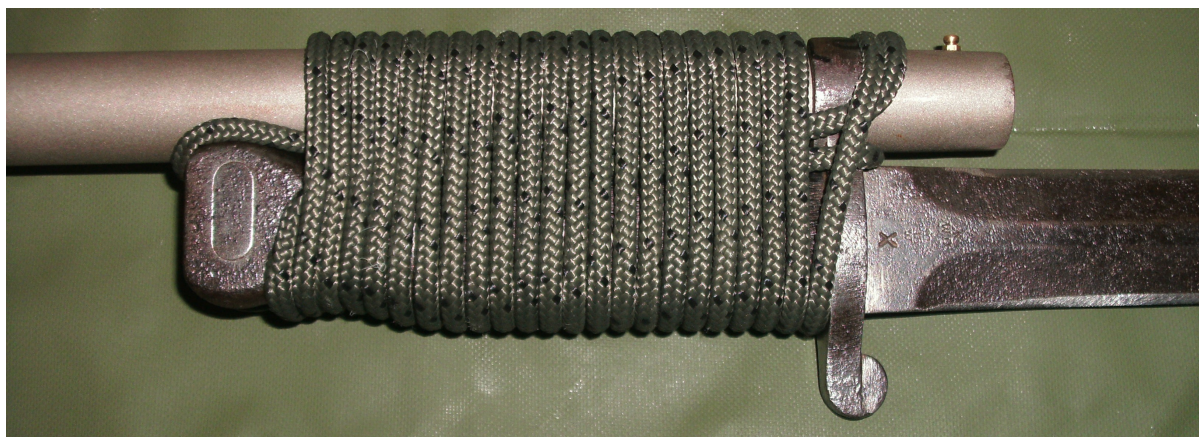




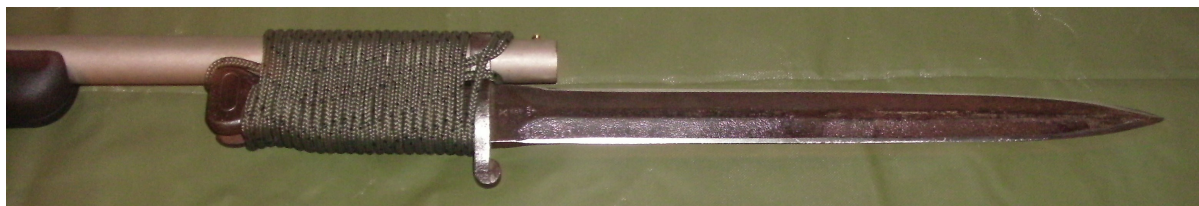
I found this old bayonet at a garage sale (for ten dollars), and made a nylon sheath for it.



The bayonet had a ring on the handguard, sized for the original rifle barrel. I cut it with a hacksaw, and then spread it open, just enough to let it slip over the shotgun barrel (and past the front sight).



While many mounting methods are possible, I decided to secure the bayonet with lashings.



The improvised paracord lashing holds the bayonet very securely. It held up well during testing.





The final change was to replace the original retaining screw on the fore-stock with a threaded knob, so that the gun could be taken apart and reassembled, without having to use any tools.

So here we have an affordable gun, that costs less than \$200 (I paid \$135 for mine).

It easily breaks down, into a relatively short package

It is a simple gun, with a minimum number of moving parts, so not much can go wrong with it.

The stainless steel and polymer construction holds up well under survival conditions.

The single shot design encourages careful shot placement, and ammo conservation.

It can carry items in the stock pouch, and a small survival kit fits in the stock storage area.

It can fire a variety of 20 gauge rounds, including deer slugs, buckshot, birdshot, flares, etc.

Using the cartridge adapters allows the gun to fire 22, 357 and 38 special rounds.

You can switch between different rounds in seconds.

The cartridge adapters are stainless steel, and are lighter and cheaper than multiple backup guns.

The cartridge adapters are smooth-bore, and do not leave rifling marks on expended rounds.

The cartridge adapters are easily hidden or discarded, if necessary.

It can be used as a liberator weapon (used to acquire better weapons, from defeated opponents).

I don't consider this to be the ultimate survival gun, but it is a useful setup with a good balance of functions. I can carry this rig in my pack, use several types of ammo in it, keep a few survival items on-board, and it is light enough and short enough to be handy in tight spots and brushy areas.

The cartridge adapters are not rifled, they are smooth-bore, which limits their accuracy to that of a shotgun, but if I shoot a cannibal mutant with the 357, there will be no rifling marks, for forensics. These adapters will eject when you break open the action, so you have to get into the habit of using one hand to control them, when you open the gun. There are other brands (Gaugemate) that stay in the gun until removed with a tool, but this can be a disadvantage in some survival situations. (If I was hunting small game with the 22 adapter and a bear suddenly appeared, I would prefer to eject the adapter and quickly load a deer slug, without having to get out the tool and use it.)

I like this setup well enough that I plan to acquire several more, for caching in strategic locations.